

REMARKS

Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 CFR 1.136(a)

It is hereby requested that the term to respond to the Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review of October 3, 2007 be extended one month, from November 3, 2007 to December 3, 2007.

Authorization to charge a Credit Card is given to cover the extension fee. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 19-5425.

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS

In the final Office Action dated April 18, 2007, the Examiner indicated that claims 65-76 are pending in the application and the Examiner rejected all claims. Claims 1-64 have been previously cancelled.

Applicants herein cancel claims 65-76 and have added new claims 77-92. The newly added claims further define the present invention as novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record.

II. PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

The Examiner rejected claims 65, 67 and 69-74 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Alonso et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,184,878) in view of Debey (U.S. Patent No. 5,701,582) and in further view of Huizer et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,751,802). In reply, Applicants have cancelled claims 65-76 and present newly added claims 77-92 which more clearly define the present invention over the prior art of record, and provide the following remarks.

A. Alonso Fails to Disclose Distributing a Single Digital Transport Stream Containing Selectable Presentations

The present invention teaches a system for interactive distribution of selectable presentations wherein a set of users are presented a multiplexed stream of information, and contained in this stream are multiple selected presentations. The equipment at a user location identifies a specific presentation requested by the user for viewing that has been multiplexed into a single stream of information along with selections by other users. By transmitting the selected programs to the users in a single, multiplexed stream, the overhead at a transmitting portion of a headend device (the device supplying the information) is decreased. Claim 77 specifically states “multiplexing said retrieved presentation with presentations selected by other users into a single MPEG digital video transport stream”. Once a user’s equipment has received the multiplexed stream, the user’s equipment is supplied addressing information such that the user’s equipment can find the requested programming in the multiplexed stream.

The Examiner relies on Alonso (which incorporates Bleidt by reference) as teaching multiplexing a selectable presentation into an MPEG video stream as claimed by the present invention. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s interpretation of Alonso. Specifically, Alonso fails to teach or disclose at least the claimed elements of multiplexing a selected presentation in MPEG digital video format with presentations selected by other users into a single MPEG digital video transport stream. Additionally, Alonso fails to teach or disclose transmitting an address message to the address processing equipment at a user’s location to indicate the position of the requested presentation in MPEG digital video format in the MPEG digital video transport stream. To overcome these deficiencies, the Examiner relies

on Bleidt for the teaching of multiplexing a selectable presentation in MPEG digital video format with selectable presentations selected by other users into a single MPEG digital video transport stream.

Applicants respectfully submit that the multiplexer taught by Bleidt actually teaches away from the Applicants' invention. Bleidt teaches that a multiplexing circuit reformats data in a multiplexed manner such that a large number of users can be connected to various ports of the multiplexing circuit (Bleidt, column 6, lines 52-62). Each user is associated with a given channel. Each channel is allocated a specific slot in which the user's data is transmitted. In other words, the multiplexing circuit of Bleidt reformats the data based on slots assigned to a user and transmits the data accordingly. Consequently, no multiplexing of multiple selected presentations from multiple users is taught by Bleidt as each user has a dedicated slot for transmission.

The addition of Debey and Huizer fail to bridge the substantial gap between Alonso (and the incorporated teachings of Bleidt) and the present invention. Specifically, Debey only teaches recording a subscriber ID when a routing computer receives a subscriber request. Huizer discloses a method of transmitting and receiving compressed television signals along with the capability of pausing a bit stream and resuming playback at a later time. Both Debey and Huizer, however, fail to teach or reasonably suggest multiplexing a selected presentation in MPEG digital video format with selectable presentations selected by other users into a single MPEG digital video transport stream. As such, Applicants' claimed invention is not taught by the cited prior art and an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

III. CONCLUSION

The presently claimed invention is not taught or suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 19-5425.

Respectfully submitted,
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by:

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Date

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